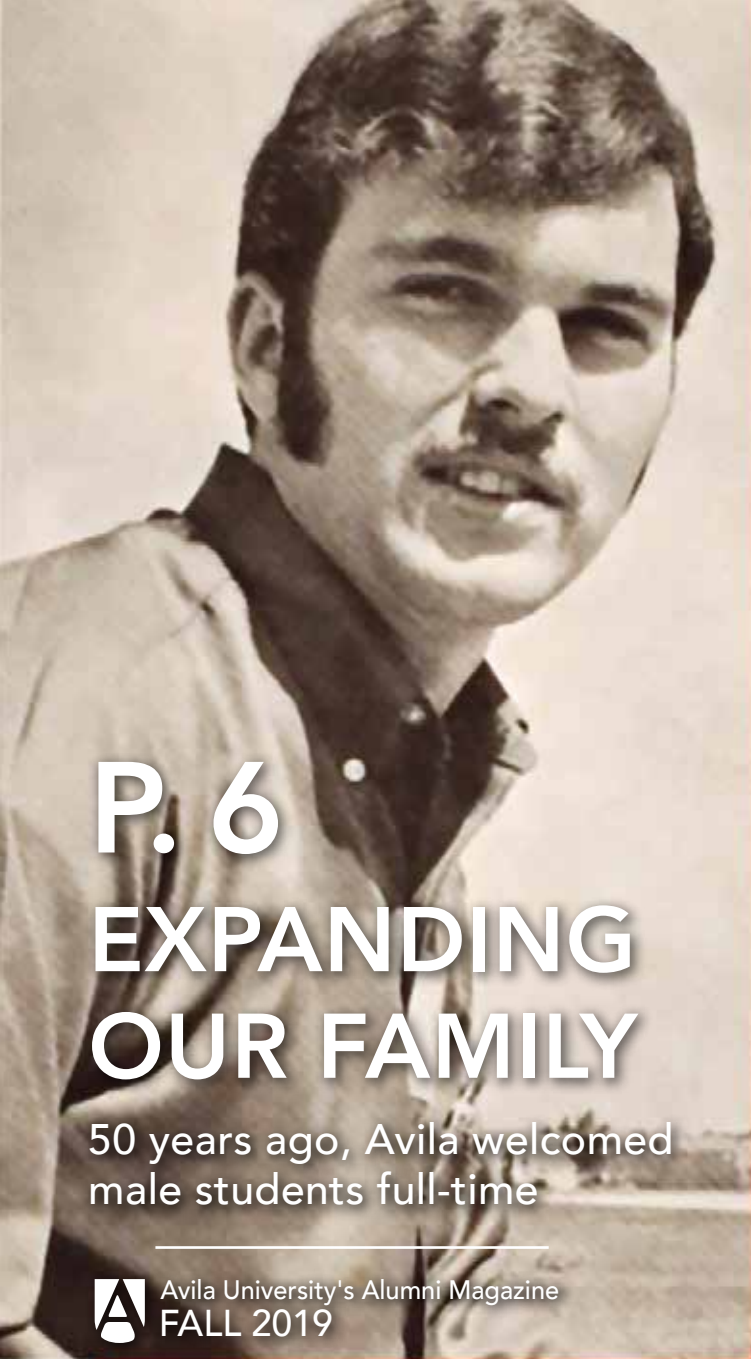




AC CE NT



P. 6 EXPANDING OUR FAMILY

50 years ago, Avila welcomed
male students full-time

 Avila University's Alumni Magazine
FALL 2019

AVILA BECAME COED

THE DAY



SECTIONS

- 2 ACCENT ON AVILA
- 6 FEATURE STORY
- 8 FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- 9 GLOBAL AVILA
- 10 CAMPUS LIFE
- 12 EAGLES ATHLETICS
- 14 ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS
- 16 CLASS NOTES
- 20 IN MEMORIAM
- 21 AVILA HERITAGE SOCIETY

p.14

Homecoming
Weekend

Accent is published biannually by the Office of Marketing & Communication. Opinions expressed in Accent are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the University.

CONTACT

Avila University • 11901 Wornall Road • Kansas City, MO 64145
816.501.3602 • Advancement@avila.edu • Avila.edu

Avila University President,
Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

Vice President for Advancement & Marketing,
Deanna Nelson, MPA

EDITOR

Sr. Director of Marketing & Communications,
Darren Roubinek

CONTRIBUTORS

Athletics Department
Bailey Carr '09, '12, CSJA

Paul McQuiston

Maggie Mohrfeld

David Riffel Photography

Maureen Reardon, CSJA

Adonna Thompson

DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

This time of year is always exciting for me: we've had a great beginning of the academic year having welcomed new members of the Avila family and we welcomed back old friends for Homecoming Weekend. I enjoy seeing so many of our alumni come back to campus and renew the bonds they developed while students. Those bonds last a lifetime, providing help during times of need and celebration during moments of success.

As we recognize the 50th anniversary of Avila welcoming its first full-time male students, I want to reflect on the immense value of community and family.

When we welcomed men onto our campus as full-time traditional undergraduate students for the first time in 1969, we broadened the Avila family. We also introduced these young men to a school founded, inspired and run by women, perhaps providing them a different way of relating to the world. Even today, I believe that whenever we broaden our perspectives, we progress beyond our limits.

At Avila, we are most successful when we bring together students, alumni, faculty and staff with different strengths and experiences to form groups that address complex challenges. Importantly, we welcome all without distinction, practicing the values our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and

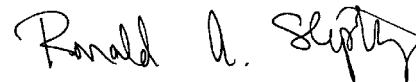
focusing on forming right relationships with God, self, others and creation.

Bringing students together in small groups, we foster relationships and create bonds between people of differing backgrounds and experiences. Further, when we encourage students to make commitments to a group of their peers, they learn the power of the group in overcoming obstacles. They are reminded that no challenge is too difficult and that with the support of others, we can solve almost any problem.

I'm happy to report the Avila family is stronger than ever and we remain committed to our students of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

You help make that possible. The values of Avila and our founders prepare us to make meaningful contributions to the global community and if we do it together, there's no limit to what we can do.

Gratefully,



Ronald A. Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA
President



We are most successful when we bring together students, alumni, faculty and staff with different strengths and experiences to form groups that address complex challenges.



L to R: President Ron Slepitz, Robert Powell, Ph.D. '19, Marilyn Hager, Ken Hager, Christine Ojile '82.



In recognizing support and leadership at the President's Circle Reception, we showcase the power and strength of the Avila family in the past, present and future.

President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA

President's Circle Honors

Hagers, Ojile '82 and Powell '19 recognized at President's Circle reception

It might have been a chilly evening, but spirits were warm for the annual President's Circle Reception, on October 3. President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, recognized the latest recipients of the Avila Medal of Honor, Ken and Marilyn Hager and Christine Ojile '82, and the 2019 Honorary Alumni Award winner, professor emeritus Robert Powell, Ph.D.

The impact of the Hagers is evident across campus. Since Ken joined the Board of Trustees in 2008, he has served as both vice-chair and chair of the Board of Trustees and the couple also served on the Centennial Campaign Committee, which helped Avila raised more than \$43 million. Their leadership in helping transform the Hooley-Bundschi Library into the Learning Commons was recognized by the naming of a study room in their honor. In 2014, the couple chaired the annual Steer Dinner and Auction, and their inspiration led to the first \$1 million total in its history. The Hagers will continue their leadership by serving as co-chairs for the Promise Campaign, Avila's \$60 million comprehensive campaign, the largest in University history.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in management, with minors in economics, psychology and studio art, Christine Ojile's '82, energy in connecting the Avila family after graduation has been an inspiration to hundreds of her fellow alumni. This energy is shown by the fact that she is the first and, to date, only alumna to serve on the Board of Trustees, Board of Counselors and also the Alumni Board. In addition to chairing the Board of Counselors, she served as the Board of Trustees' secretary and has been a member of several steering committees. A natural leader, Ojile's ability to stay in touch with her fellow alumni and to ensure those connections remain strong will be an enormous asset for the Promise Campaign, on which she serves as co-chair with the Hagers.

Selected by more than 60 percent of the Alumni Association, Robert Powell, Ph.D., was chosen as the 2019 Honorary Alumni Award recipient for his nearly 50 years of service at Avila. As professor of biology, his co-discovery of a new species of lizard on Union Island in the St. Vincent Grenadines made headlines, as did his incredible number of publications in scholarly journals. But to the students and alumni of Avila, his enthusiasm in teaching and his 13-foot Burmese python, Sadie, stood out long in the memory. Powell helped generations of students develop a love of herpetology with research trips to Mexico, the West Indies and Hawaii.

"In recognizing support and leadership at the President's Circle Reception, we showcase the power and strength of the Avila family in the past, present and future," said University President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA. "The contributions, passion and enthusiasm of the Hagers, Christine Ojile and Bob Powell continually inspire all of us at Avila to aspire to greatness." 📸



Pictured: Avila University Medal of Honor recipients gathered to welcome the latest members of the very prestigious group of University alumni, friends, faculty and staff which has collectively made an indelible impact at Avila.

Cybersecurity New Program Spring 2020

Avila will launch a new undergraduate program in cybersecurity to begin in spring 2020, furthering the University's commitment to preparing its graduates for careers in a continually-evolving workforce.

The program provides a unique blend of theoretical and practical instruction, giving students the tools to adapt and excel to a field that changes rapidly. Avila President Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., CSJA, said the program will be valuable for students but also businesses in the community.

"We have designed the cybersecurity program to not only meet the current needs in the field, but to give our graduates the tools to adapt to a rapidly changing branch of our nation's infrastructure," said program chairperson Khaled Alrawashdeh, Ph.D., assistant professor of computer science. "We're focused on developing our students' analytical skills in tandem with hands-on training to make sure they not only have a job out of college, but a career."

In addition to Alrawashdeh, William Moran, visiting instructor of computer science and software engineering, will teach courses, providing more than 40 years of combined academic and professional experience and know-how to students in the program. 📖

Darrin Smith, Ph.D., Named New Dean of College of Science & Health

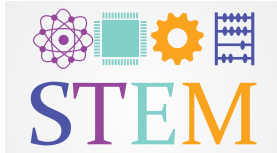


Darrin Smith, Ph.D., new Dean of the College of Science and Health, at the 2019 President's Circle Ceremony on October 3 with his wife, Lori Smith, Ph.D.

Darrin Smith, Ph.D., was named Dean of the College of Science and Health in June, a role in which he will oversee programs in the natural and applied sciences, computer sciences and mathematics and nursing and imaging sciences departments at the University. Smith joins Avila from the Waters Corporation, a laboratory and software manufacturing company based in Milford, Massachusetts, where he was a senior field service specialist in the Kansas City area. Previously, he taught at Eastern Kentucky University for 15 years, where he served

as professor of chemistry and chair of the department of chemistry.

A highly experienced researcher in academia and the private sector, Smith's research centers on analytical chemistry, with an emphasis on the development of novel mass spectrometry methods for qualitative and quantitative analysis. In addition to his teaching duties, he is a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Society of Mass Spectrometry, and was formerly a member of the Kentucky Academy of Science. 📖



Avila Opens New STEM Resource Center

The College of Science and Health

recently opened its STEM Resource Center on the first floor of O'Reilly Hall, making drop-in tutoring available for students in biology, chemistry and computer science. The center is funded by a National Science Foundation S-STEM grant (#1643549). The S-STEM grant is geared toward collaborative learning in support of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Tutors are S-STEM scholars, students majoring in STEM fields wishing to pursue a related career.

Katie Burgess, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology and principal investigator of the S-STEM grant, directs the new STEM Resource Center. "The STEM Resource Center is an invaluable learning tool for Avila's students majoring in a STEM program or taking a STEM course," Burgess said. "Teaching someone else is a great way to more fully learn complicated subjects, so we've made our S-STEM scholars our initial tutors in the center. We hope to make the center enticing by having the first face they see be a friendly, familiar one." 📷



Burns, Thompson Brown and Sackuvich Join Avila's Board of Trustees




Front row:

S. Mary Margaret Lazio, CSJ '70; Ellen Martin, Secretary; S. Marie Joan Harris, CSJ, Ph.D.; Ibraheem Badejo; Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA; David Kerr '76, Chair; Vercie Lark; J. Robert Hardin '78

Back row:

Tom Burns; Michael Van Dyke; Gary Smith; Rick Weller, Vice Chair & Treasurer; Phil Smith; Timothy O'Brien '95; S. Helen Flemington, CSJ; Christine Ojile '82; Joseph Fahey; Lisa Sackuvich '81, RN, BSN, CRNI; Kate Thompson Brown, CSJA; Ana Valdez '96; Patricia Lyon '00; Ken Hager; S. Shawn Madigan, CSJ, Ph.D.



Climate Change, Hunger Relief Emphasized at Annual CRS Training

L to R: Becca Tensing, Vivian Bueckers, Marilyn Orta, Alexis Delgado, Yennifer Yepez, Zulina Ramirez and Elizabeth Harris




Seven Avila University students attended the annual Catholic Relief Services (CRS) College Ambassador Regional Training in September in Omaha, Nebraska, joining students from Creighton University, Benedictine College and the University of St. Mary's.

The annual regional training is provided to the 107 partner colleges which belong to CRS to implement co-curricular programming for the upcoming academic year. The four focus areas for 2019-20 are: I Am Climate Change, I Am Migration,

I Am Human Trafficking, and I Am Global Hunger. The College Ambassadors spent the weekend in Omaha receiving in-depth training and knowledge about each of the focus areas.

"I love attending the CRS trainings because it reminds me that we are all part of something bigger," said senior Zulina Ramirez.

"It helps remind us that there are other students who share the same cause and that we are all working together to make a difference. It may sound cliché, but when I leave CRS, I feel empowered to change the world and make a difference." 



When I got to campus, there still weren't that many men there. But to me, the dedication to education was evident in the sisters.

Steve Kilpatrick '73



When Avila Became Co-Ed

In 1969, Avila enrolled full-time male students for the first time

To say David Martin '73, '93 had a memorable first day of classes at Avila would be a mild understatement.

A local kid, he was attending community college and working at an ice cream shop nearby in Red Bridge when G. Richard Scott, Avila's academic dean at the time, stopped in and over time, attempted to talk Martin into transferring to Avila. Martin was familiar with the "beautiful campus" and was impressed by what he found when he spoke with professors in his major, so after completing his associate's degree in 1969 he decided to transfer.

"The first day I came to school, I thought I knew what building my class was in but I wasn't sure," Martin said. "I stopped a young lady and asked her, just to make sure. She was kind enough to tell me I was heading the right direction and pointed out my building.

"And then she looked at me funny and said, 'What are you doing here?'"

The women of Avila College could be forgiven for being taken aback by male students on campus. For the first 53 years of Avila's history, it was a women's college, with a few men taking selected courses only at night beginning in the 1950s. But on September 11, 1969, that all changed. The first group of men which walked onto campus that day – 20 students, 10 of them full-time – altered the trajectory of the University's history.

The initial announcement to go co-ed was made in April 1968 in conjunction with Rockhurst College at that time. Rockhurst was a men's-only college that became coeducational the same year as Avila. At a press conference held in the former Plaza Inn in Kansas City, Sister Olive Louise Dallavis, CSJ, Avila president emerita, described the move as an attempt "to broaden and strengthen the educational programs and to provide a richer diversity of options" to students in Kansas City.

The young woman caught off-guard by Martin's presence on campus was not the only one stunned by the change. A survey conducted by




Before Eddie

Schmidt '72 earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing, becoming the first male graduate of Avila, he blazed the way for generations of male students. However, it wasn't always easy going.

"The first day in class set the stage for the remainder of the school term," he said in a newsletter published at the time. "I was never so embarrassed in my life. I really felt kind of funny being the only man in a class with 90 females."

One of the first male students to enroll at Avila, Schmidt fit in a full-time course load while serving as an aerospace ground equipment technician at the since-closed Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base as a staff sergeant. Like generations of Avila students, he was making his way in his career while taking a full-time course load. Members of the staff at the time noted his profession broadened the perspective in his classes.

The welcoming, small campus appealed to Schmidt and he came to feel home on Avila's campus. Being the only man in many of his classes took some adjustment, but he quickly adapted and excelled.

"I wanted a major in nursing and the only school in this area that offered a Bachelor of Science degree (in nursing) was Avila," he said. "The administration went out of their way to make me feel at home." 

the student newspaper following the announcement found that students were surprised by the way the change was communicated – a letter posted on a bulletin board the day of the announcement. But the same survey showed "the general consensus of opinion (didn't) concern the proposed change." Regardless, student opinion, seeing a male student on campus remained a novelty for several years following the transition.

"If I had one or, maybe two men in my class, that was a lot," said Monica Rafter '74. "I never really crossed paths with the men on campus because it was just in its infancy while I was there. If you weren't looking out for a male student on campus, you probably wouldn't even notice them. It would almost still be a surprise if you ran into a male student; 'Oh yeah, that's right!'"

As the first male students acclimated, they quickly began to appreciate the lessons and values shared on campus. Steve Kilpatrick '73, who grew up in a small Dutch town in Iowa and had been attending William Jewell College, decided to transfer to Avila because of its degree program in social work. It was a transformational decision.


"It was novel to me because I wasn't from a Catholic background and there was a bit of a cultural shift for me," Kilpatrick said. "When I got to campus, there still weren't that many men there. But to me, the dedication to education was evident in the sisters. And while I wasn't Catholic, it was inspiring to see that dedication and the devotion to God's work through the educational institution.

"What was really important, in retrospect, was that I became more familiar with Catholicism and the faith of people who I had maybe developed some skepticism about through osmosis because of where I grew up."

Kilpatrick went on to earn his Master of Divinity degree and has assisted with leadership development for the past 27 years with Youth With a Mission, an interdenominational organization based in Oregon. The values he learned at Avila have continued to inform his work.

"There wasn't as much of a focus on 'being green' back then, but there was a sense of being good stewards of life and the Earth at Avila at that time," he said. "Those ideas were foundational to my education."

Now, as the class of 2023 begins their journey toward graduation, men have been a part of campus life for nearly half the lifetime of the University. Today, male undergraduate and graduate students make up 34 percent of the student body and the nearly 4,000 men who are members of the Avila University Alumni Association continue to be an essential part of the Avila family.

"When we began accepting male students 50 years ago, we were realizing one of the core values of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet – to celebrate diversity and its expression," said University President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., CSJA. "It's easy to forget now that it was still very novel for a college to be founded, inspired and run by women at that time. We talk a lot about different ways of relating, different values and ways of thinking. Through welcoming male students, we broadened our horizons and the men and women who have attended Avila since have gained so much as a result." 





Professor of the Year: Jordan Wagge

Jordan Wagge, Ph.D., the 2019 Avila University Professor of the Year, continually looks for ways to convey the importance of ethical scientific research methods to her students, a key factor in her recognition by the student body for her contributions in the classroom.


“Teaching and using ethical research practices is a passion of mine and I stress its importance to my students because only research that’s done well can meaningfully impact others’ lives, but also because it is an attitude consistent with the values and mission at Avila,” Wagge said. “We want our researchers to be responsible members of the scientific community, and a significant part of that is developing right relationships with their peers through honest inquiry and analysis.”

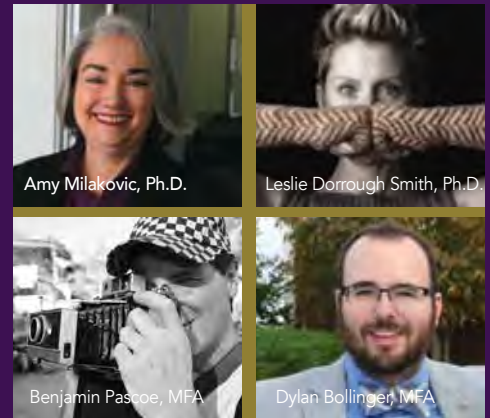
While not a sports fan, Wagge sometimes uses a well-known moment in baseball history to make her point.

“When Babe Ruth was up to bat and pointed to the outfield and hit the ball to the spot he pointed at, it was really impressive, right?” she said. “It would not have been impressive if he had hit the ball and then pointed to the outfield. That’s hypothesizing after the results are known, and that’s why preregistration is so important for scientific validity.”

Preregistration is a method by which researchers can announce a hypothesis publicly, run an experiment and establish their findings are in fact valid rather than writing hypotheses after the data are collected. Its usage in ethical research is a passion for Wagge, an associate professor in Avila’s Department of Psychology. She has presented on the topic at conferences across the United States and her op-ed published in the Wall Street Journal in 2018 served as a call to arms for professors and researchers looking to establish a more ethical code of conduct in the sciences.

“The incentive structure for academics is bound up in grants, tenure and promotion,” Wagge said. “To get those, you need publications. And sometimes, researchers have engaged in some borderline unethical behaviors in order to establish statistical significance.”

Wagge is passing her passion for ethical research onto her students, and making an impact. Members of her lab use the Open Science Framework to manage projects, which prioritizes openly-accessible data, methods, conditions and analyses in order to be transparent with their research. 




Faculty News

AMY MILAKOVIC, Ph.D., assistant professor and department chair of English, was selected to present at the 2020 Conference on College Composition and Communication’s Annual Convention in Milwaukee in March.

LESLIE DORROUGH SMITH, Ph.D., associate professor of religious studies and chair of the Women’s & Gender Studies Program, has two books being published in November. The first, a monograph, is “Compromising Positions: Sex Scandals, Politics, and American Christianity” and the second, an edited volume, is “Constructing Data in Religious Studies: Examining the Architecture of the Academy.” She will also be attending the American Academy of Religion/North American Association for the Study of Religion conference in San Diego the same month.

BENJAMIN PASCOE, MFA, associate professor of communication, had his short film Polaroid YES screened at the Fotogramma d’Oro Film Festival in Messina, Italy, in May and the Mozi Motion Film Festival in Hilversum, Netherlands, in October. The animated, experimental documentary is also scheduled to be screened at the Oaxaca FilmFest in November.

DYLAN BOLLINGER, MFA, visiting assistant professor of theatre design & technology, was selected to serve as a judge for the Georgia High School Association One Act Play Festival at the 2019 Georgia Theatre Conference this October. 



These young people sing of love, peace and unity — it is difficult to sing of such things and not be influenced to include them in your daily life.

Amity Bryson, D.M.A., chair of the School of Performing Arts

University Singers Visit Le Puy, Paris During Award-Winning French Tour

The Avila University Singers brought back more than memories from their July tour of France. The host organization, Music Celebrations International, awarded the University Singers with Outstanding Performance honors for their leadership, performance and attitude during the festival.

“We were acknowledged for our excellence in performance at Normandy and in Paris, as well as for our leadership during an intense two days of large ensemble rehearsals,” said Amity Bryson, D.M.A., professor of music and chair of the School of Performing Arts.

“I am extremely proud of this unexpected honor,” said Bryson. “My singers remained focused, demonstrated leadership and they sang with passion which is all I can ask of them.”

The 10-day tour began with a concert celebrating the liberation of France near Omaha Beach and its American Cemetery. This concert was the culmination of concerts commemorating the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings. From there, the Avila University Singers went on to perform a concert in Paris along with 350 other singers celebrating Franco-American friendship.

After performing in Paris, the University Singers embarked on a solo tour across France, including performances in Le Puy-en-Velay, the birthplace of Avila’s founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Because of their successful tour and outstanding performance, the University Singers have been invited to return to France and perform as part of Interfolk Le Puy-en-Velay in July 2020.

“These undergraduate students represent the hope of our future. These young people sing of love, peace and unity—it is difficult to sing of such things and not be influenced to include them in your daily life,” said Bryson. 🇺🇸



Give today to transform tomorrow.

Make your year-end tax-deductible gift to Avila University today! Donate online at Avila.edu/Donate

1. Avila University's incoming class took the annual Community Plunge on August 20, serving the dear neighbor at Harvesters –The Community Food Network in Kansas City to pack more than 60,000 pounds of food for emergency food pantries, community kitchens, homeless shelters, children's homes and other non-profit organizations. Students also received a tour of the facility and participated in a simulation to help them understand the difficulties faced by families with limited means.
2. Avila welcomed new Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas to campus in August, where he met with members of the South Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and community members to introduce himself and discuss his vision for Kansas City. Following a breakfast and Q&A, Lucas toured the Avila campus with University President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., CSJA, and Greg Lever '85, chair of Avila's Board of Counselors.
3. Avila University's Department of English and Foreign Languages honored Toni Morrison during its annual Public Reading on September 19 on the campus quad. Students, faculty and staff read from two of Morrison's novels, "Sula" and "The Bluest Eye," in addition to a number of selections from the Nobel Prize recipient.
4. Students and staff from Avila University's School of Nursing showcased the school's low, medium and high-fidelity simulators to the public in recognition of Healthcare Simulation Week. As part of the open house, students showed how the simulators work and gave demonstrations of skills such as IV insertion and assessments.
5. "Igniting the Flame" is a campus tradition which brings students, faculty, staff and their families together for a picnic dinner, games and fellowship. 🍷

Events that Inspire





L to R: Sue Fahey, CSJA, Reggie Shaw, Joe Fahey '16 (Hon.)

Distracted Driving Focus of 2019 Truman Lecture Series

Shaw gives powerful speech at annual event

For Reggie Shaw, the 2019 Harry S. Truman Distinguished Lecturer, educating people about the dangers of texting and driving isn't just a public awareness campaign, it is a passion. After all, he knows better than most the consequences of a moment's inattention. On a morning in 2006 Shaw drove to work. Looking down to send a text message, he struck another car, resulting in a multi-car accident that left two dead. The crash, its causes and the aftereffects of the incident inspired Pulitzer Prize recipient Matt Richtel to write "A Deadly Wandering", the book selected for the 2019 Common Reading Program in Avila's First Year Seminar course.

"Reggie's emotional and moving speech drove home a lesson to students, alumni, faculty and staff that we need to consider our actions whenever we get behind the wheel of our car," said Sue Ellen McCalley, Ph.D., chair of the Truman Lecture Series.

Shaw's lecture and guided discussions with first-year students built on the First-Year Seminar coursework from throughout the semester. Earlier in the year, a panel of three Avila faculty – Ashley Fansher, Ph.D.,

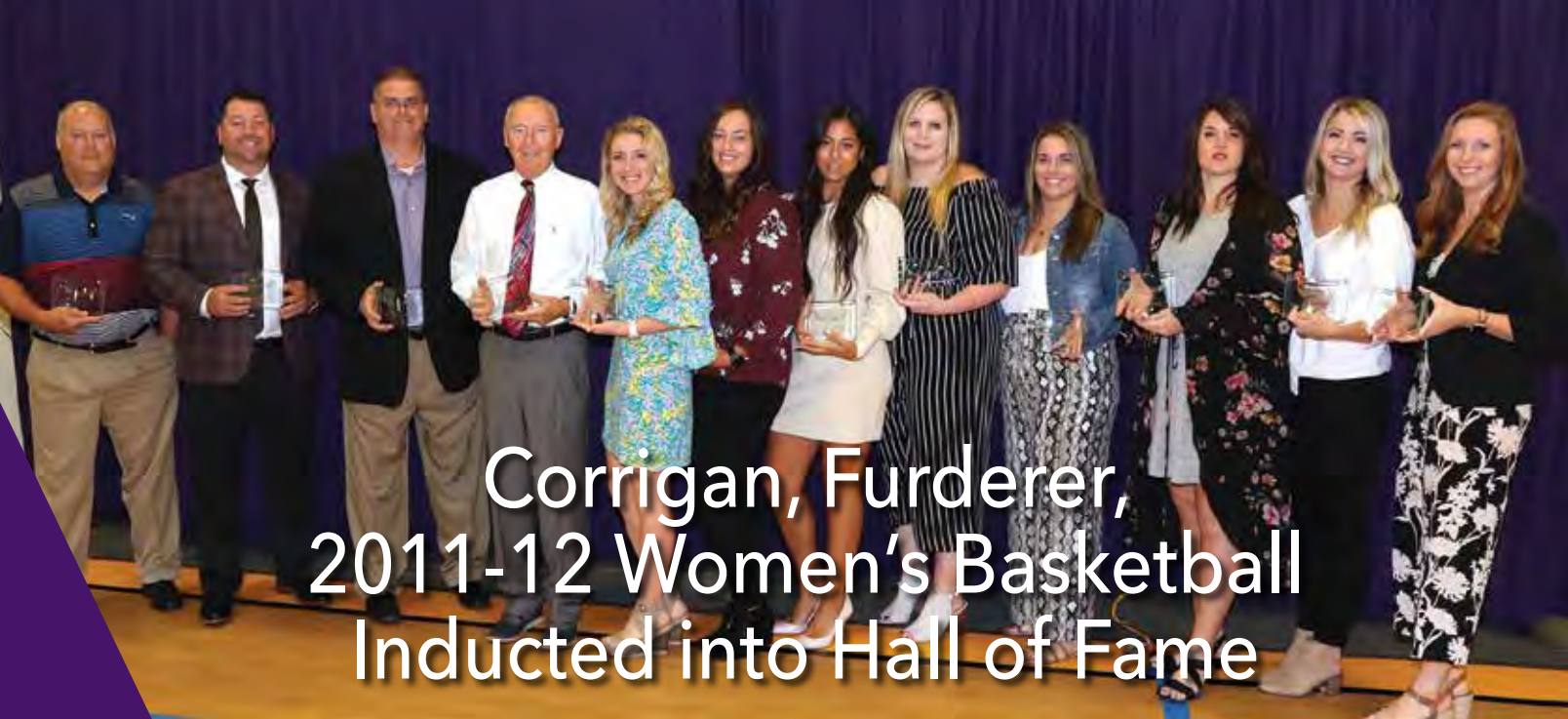
assistant professor of criminology, Marcia Pasqualini, Ph.D., professor and chair, school of psychology, and J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., professor of communications and director of the Center for Digital Advocacy – discussed the ethical and philosophical impacts of technology and social media on humans, fielding questions from a group of 200 first-year with students.

The Truman Lecture Series, presented by J.M. Fahey Construction, is an opportunity for students to meet and hear from inspiring individuals, like Shaw.

"Reggie chose to relive one of the worst days of his life to educate others on how to avoid the same mistake he made," said Paige Illum, Ph.D., director of student engagement and success. "His incredibly powerful story and its causes and consequences are exactly the sort of concepts we hope to investigate in our First Year Seminar coursework. And institutionally, his devotion to service and his pursuit of right relationships with others are the ideals we want to share with our first-year students." 📸 📺



L to R: Paige Illum, Hannah Rogers, Ryan Schroeder, Jacob Kruckenberg, Heylee Warren, Luca McIntyre, Ashlyn Blatt, Reggie Shaw, Ju-young Morimoto, Rachel Howard, Richard Bertoldie, Tyler Lindquist



Corrigan, Furderer, 2011-12 Women's Basketball Inducted into Hall of Fame

Two individuals and one team were inducted into the Avila Athletics Hall of Fame during Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, October 5. Inductees **MIKE CORRIGAN '90**, soccer, **KEVIN FURDERER '05**, football, and the **2011-12 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM** were recognized during the ceremony in the Athletic Pavilion.

Corrigan, a four-year letter winner for the men's soccer team, was a two-time NAIA First Team All-American in 1986 and 1987, scored 98 goals and had 37 assists in his Avila career. He led the 1987 team to the program's second NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship appearance and an outstanding 18-5-3 record.

Avila's all-time career leader in rushing with 3,312 yards, Furderer stood out as a member of the inaugural Avila football team. His 2003 season, where he ran for 989 yards, garnered him second-team All-Heart of America Athletic Conference recognition which he followed up with a senior season where he ranked amongst the top rushers in the country.

The 2011-12 Women's Basketball Team achieved new levels of success in advancing to the second round of the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Championship, highlighted by the team's enormous upset of the No. 1 seed Freed-Hardeman University in a double-overtime 84-82 win.

JUNIOR MIA MORENO and **SHABARI JONES '19** received the 2019 Avila Athletes of the Year awards during the ceremony, reflecting their immense contributions to the softball and football teams this past year, respectively. 🏆

(Above L to R):

Michael D. Corrigan '90;
Kevin J. Furderer '05; Bob
Lehman; Larry Williams;
Jackie (Wacha) Bacon; Arianne
Henry '14; Torie Murillo '14, '16;
Kendra (Crow) Collier '13; Sam
York '13; Cassie (Bruner) Bailey
'13; Loganne (Grider) Hickman '12;
Brittany (Townsend) Branch '13

A



Pictured: Junior Mia Moreno and Shabari Jones '19



Shawn Summe Named Avila Athletics Director


Avila named Shawn Summe its new director of athletics in July, a role in which he will oversee the University's 12 intercollegiate athletic teams and strengthen Avila's connection to the Kansas City community. Summe brings more than 15 years of experience in intercollegiate athletics administration to the position, including eight years in a director role in small colleges.

Summe's experience includes a strong background in the NAIA, having served as both head coach and in administrative roles at several institutions, most recently at Stratford University in Virginia, where as athletics director he oversaw the creation of a newly-formed intercollegiate athletics program. A former head baseball coach, he also worked in athletics departments at Ave Maria University in Florida, Judson College in Illinois, and others. 

Majors, White Take Over Volleyball, Softball Coaching Duties




Eric Majors was named the new head volleyball coach of the Eagles for the 2019 season last winter. A former graduate assistant at Avila during the 2004-06 seasons, Majors has a deep local history in Kansas City and returns after an extended stint at Division I McNeese State in Lake Charles, Louisiana. A graduate of Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, Majors was a dual athlete in both football and volleyball at the NAIA

institution. He also served as a coach at Graceland and William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. 



Bryce White was named the new head coach of the Avila softball team in September, taking the reins of the defending KCAC regular season champion squad. White joins Avila after serving as an assistant coach at Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, Kentucky for 12 years, where he helped the Lady Tigers to an NAIA World Series appearance and nine regular season conference titles. White is a native of Tekonsha,

Michigan, and graduated from Campbellsville in 2008 with his bachelor's degree in physical education and a minor in coaching. He was also a four-year, post student-athlete. 



Check out your Eagles on Avila's Athletics website at AvilaAthletics.com.



Homecoming Weekend 2019: October 3-6

Seven decades of alumni returned to campus during Homecoming Weekend 2019 to reconnect and celebrate with the Avila family. Numerous graduating classes and academic programs recognizing milestones, plus an athletics reunion, brought together Avila alumni, friends, students and staff to celebrate the University.

1. HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON

President Ron Slepitza with
Dr. Thomas E. Garrison Sullivan

2. HERITAGE DAY MASS

Mimi Powers '56, Carol Miller,
Mary Kitchin '57

3. SPECIAL EDUCATION RECEPTION

Sabrina Marshall '79 and Beverly
Allen '73

4. EAGLE MADNESS

Lori Lewellen with two of her children

5. ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY

Walter Brandes '92; Dr. David
W. Berberich '84; Dr. Bitu W.
Moghaddam '82; Erin N. Stephenson
'13; Ann M. Ventrillo '72; Amanda M.
Walker '11; Nancy J. Petersen '91.

**6. HERITAGE DAY LUNCHEON
CLASS OF 1964**

President Ron Slepitza, Mary (Bien)
Sharp '64, Mary Ann (Dunn) Brown '64,
Kathleen (Plummer) Clark '64

7. TAILGATE

Carmen Bisacca '89, '04, Erin
Sheehy '17, Tonya Phillips '06, '09,
Emilee Rehling '10

8. HERITAGE DAY MASS

Joan Hennessey '54, Theresa "Pat"
Hughes '54, Jerry Hughes, Mary Anne
Flucke '54, '83, Pat Voorhes '54



9. DINNER THEATRE

Kelley Ebel '82, Dr. Bitu W. Moghaddam '82, Dr. Charlie Bradberry, Christine Ojile '82, Lisa Burks '82

10. HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

Cassi '05 and Kevin '05 Furderer with their children

11. ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY

Elizabeth Moran '91, Rick Truman '91, Stephen Redmon '93, Walter Brandes '92, Marc Frey '95, Jessie DeLeon '95



2019 ALUMNI AWARDEES

Outstanding Alumni Award
DR. BITU W. MOGHADDAM '82

Alumni Achievement Award
ANN M. VENTRILLO '72

Alumni Service Award
ERIN N. STEPHENSON '13

Honorary Alumni Award
DR. ROBERT POWELL '19

Honored Class Alumni Award
DR. DAVID W. BERBERICH '84

Graduate Alumni Award
NANCY J. PETERSEN '91

College of Liberal Arts &
Social Sciences Alumni Award
WALTER K. BRANDES '92

College of Professional Schools
Alumni Award
KATHLEEN J. HIGGINS VICTOR '84

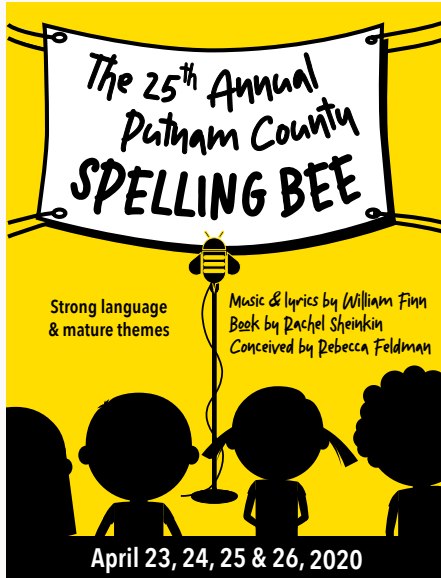
College of Science & Health
Alumni Award
AMANDA M. WALKER '11

To nominate someone for the 2020 awards, please contact Bailey Carr, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at 816.501.3780 or alumni@avila.edu.



Alumni Association

**Mark your calendar for
Homecoming Weekend 2020:
OCTOBER 8 - 11**



MUSIC PERFORMANCES

With several ensembles, there are many ways to experience great choral and orchestra music. Each presentation is entirely free to the public. Visit Avila.edu/choral for details and performances.



For locations and to reserve tickets online for shows and performances: Avila.edu/Tickets or call 816.501.3699

CLASS NOTES

'47 ROSE MARIE (CARROLLO) FALCO was recognized for her years of service as a teacher at Symington Elementary School in the Hickman Mills School District. Falco began her career at Symington when it opened its doors in 1958. On June 8, the school closed its doors.

'65 SR. MARY JOHN SEYLER OSB, pictured right, is celebrating 70 years of religious vows. She taught many years in Catholic schools, including principalship, PRE work at Prioress of our Olivetan Benedictine Community, and she also worked 17 years as pastoral care in St. Bernard Medical Center.

'66 COLLEEN (NESTOR) ENNA wrote and directed "Bones Beneath the Sidewalk," a play about the Battle of Westport and the border wars between Missouri and Kansas. It was performed at the Fringe Festival at the Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre in Kansas City in July.

'72 ANN (OTT) VENTRILLO was awarded Avila University's 2019 Alumni Achievement Award.

'82 DR. BITA MOGHADDAM was awarded Avila University's 2019 Outstanding Alumnus Award.

'84 DR. DAVID BERBERICH was awarded Avila University's 2019 Honored Class Alumni Award.

'84 KATHLEEN HIGGINS VICTOR was awarded Avila University's 2019 College of Professional Studies Alumni Award.

'88 ROB SCOLES recently appeared in the play "Morning's at Seven" by Paul Osborn with Encore Theatre Group of Independence, Missouri.

'91 NANCY PETERSEN was awarded Avila University's 2019 Graduate Alumni Award.

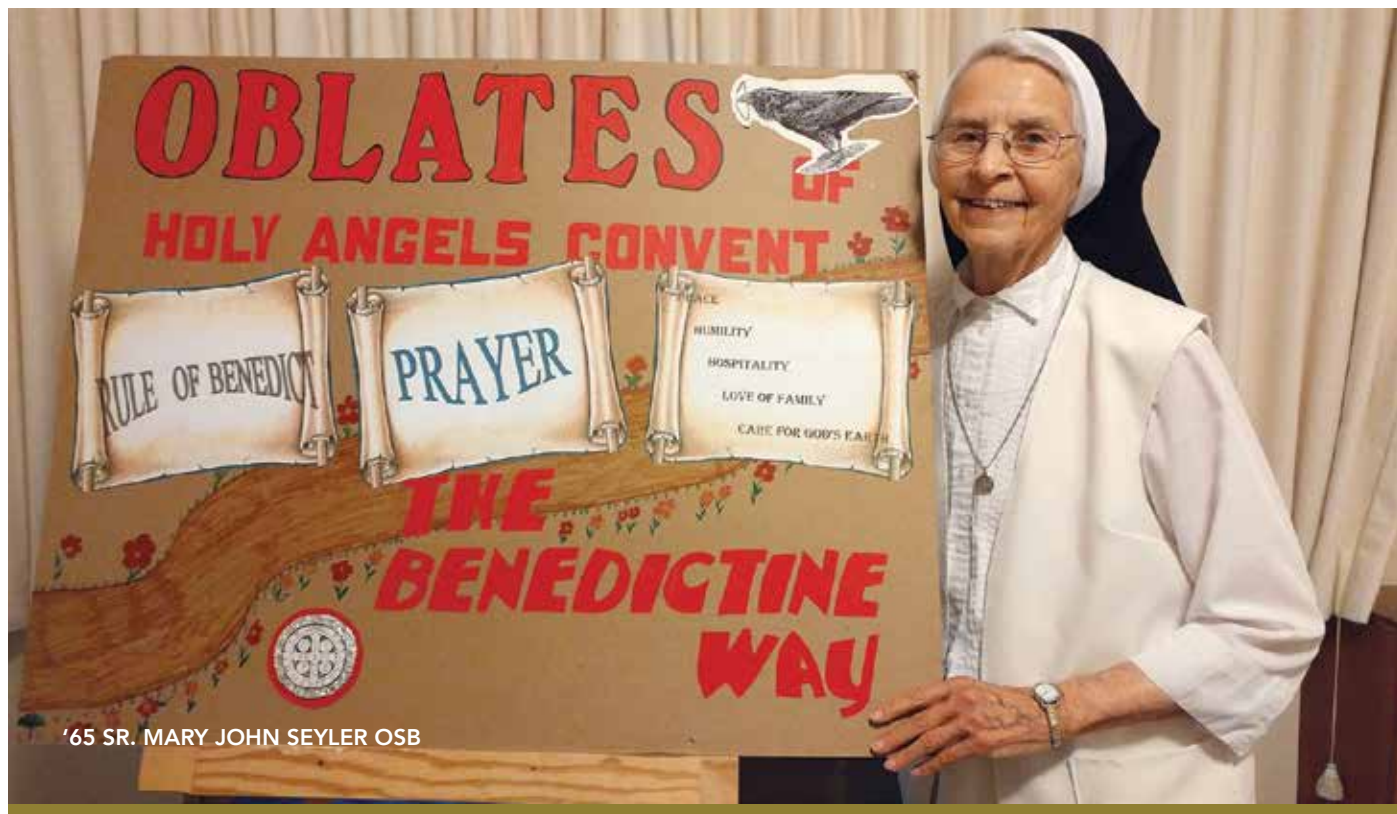
'92 WALTER BRANDES was awarded Avila University's 2019 College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Alumni Award.

'93 JEANNETTE (WARREN) GILKESON'S daughter, Nicole, is continuing the legacy at Avila enrolling as a freshman in Avila's nursing program.

'93 LAURA HOFFMAN joined the Alumni Board.

'94, '97 CINDY (MCCUNE) LONG was chosen as the Regional Teacher of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year. She teaches first grade at Martin City Elementary.

CLASS NOTES



'65 SR. MARY JOHN SEYLER OSB

'02 SARAH (HALL) MCKEE joined the Athletics Committee of the Alumni Board.

'03 RHIANNA (HATFIELD) THOMAS recently completed her doctorate degree, and she and her husband, **'02 CHRIS THOMAS**, are moving to New Mexico.

'06 PHIL BUDIG joined the Athletics Committee of the Alumni Board.

'06 JESSICA COLLINS AND '06 MASSIMO SCACCIA, along with their dogs Armani and Apollo, proudly welcomed their first child, pictured on p. 18, top right. Jordan Easton Scaccia was born April 25 at 4:28 a.m. weighing seven pounds, 13 ounces. They reside in Long Island City, New York. Since Jordan's birth, Collins is continuing her modeling career with Wilhelmina Models NY and Massimo is a senior account manager with Hormel Foods.

'06 DEBBIE CORNELIUS retired from KCP&L at the LaCygne Generating Station after 30+ years. She is looking forward to touring on her motorcycle.

'06 ANDY PHILLIPS joined the Alumni Board.

'06 , '09 TONYA PHILLIPS joined the Alumni Board

'08 CHAD HOTOVEC was recently promoted to the Principal Group at Burns & McDonnell. The Principal Group is a senior level of leadership that marks distinguished performance over an extended period of time with the firm. Out of the 7,000 employees at Burns & McDonnell, only 2% are principals. Hotovec is the manager of the oil, gas and chemicals team, located in the Burns & McDonnell office in Mumbai, India.

CLASS NOTES

'08 CHADD RIVERA joined the Alumni Board.

'08 SARAH (SINOVIC) SANFORD and husband, Kevin, welcomed their second son, Jacob Dennis on April 16. He weighed eight pounds and six ounces.

'09, '12 BAILEY (UMSTATTD) CARR and husband, Andy, welcomed their third son, *pictured bottom right*, Bowden Henry, on August 6. He weighed eight pounds, six ounces.

'10, '15 JENNIFER LINDSEY joined the Alumni Board.

'10 HEATH ROBERTS was named Chief Operating Officer for the Children's Hospital in Michigan.

'10 XANDA (PILLEY) WEISS AND '12 WIL ANDREWS-WEISS welcomed their first child, Jon Weiss, on September 10. He weighed seven pounds, seven ounces.

'11 AMANDA (COLLINS) WALKER was awarded Avila University's 2019 College of Science & Health Alumni Award.

'12 NATHAN BACON was recently hired as head baseball coach for Dordt University in Sioux City, Iowa. He is also serving as the director of fitness and facilities and adjunct professor in the Health and Human Performance Department.

'12 MJ BLAND was hired as an assistant coach for Avila's football program.

'12 CHANTELL GARRETT was recently promoted to Manager of Diversity, Inclusion and Strategic Engagements at Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

'12 ERIC POTTER joined the Alumni Board

'12 EMILY (BUXMAN) SPOHN and husband, Logan, welcomed their second child, Whit Thomas, on April 15.



'06 SCACCIA



'09, '12 CARR

'13 AMELIA AUBUCHON earned her Family Nurse Practitioner degree in May from Maryville University in St. Louis. She also got engaged in May.

'13, '17 SEQUOIA (ROSE) BEAUCHAMP AND HUSBAND, '15 TYLER BEAUCHAMP, welcomed their first son, Maverick Levi, on April 30.

'13 BRITTANY (TOWNSEND) AND '13 QUINTON BRANCH celebrated in September the one-year birthday of their son.

CLASS NOTES

'13 DIANE MORA received the Kansas City Public Schools Teacher of the Year award in April. Mora teaches English and literacy to East High School students with limited proficiency in English.

'13 ERIN STEPHENSON was awarded Avila University's 2019 Alumni Service Award.

'14 GRACE (GILLASPIE) GRAY received her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – Primary Care degree from Indiana University.

'14 PAULA-JEAN JARROSAK recently graduated with her master's degree in art therapy and counseling from Southwester College in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

'15 MATT BEAL graduated in May with his J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law. He was honored with the Class of 1949 Leadership Award for distinction in scholarship, leadership and service to the law school and the community.

'15 JORDAN BURNS completed her doctorate degree in veterinary medicine from the University of Missouri in May. Burns will complete a 12-month internship through the Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching program..

'16, '18 BEN WALKER joined the Alumni Board.

'17 SHELBY GREGO, pictured top right, received the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) Outstanding Beginning Teacher award in March.

'17 ERIN SHEEHY joined the Alumni Board, and recently accepted a position at Kiewit as a civil designer.

'18 KENNY BAKER married wife, Sidney, on August 2.

'18 PAMELA BURHAM, pictured top right, received the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) Outstanding Beginning Teacher award in March.

'18 RYAN MEYER joined the Avila staff as a graduate admissions representative.



"The Avila Girls"

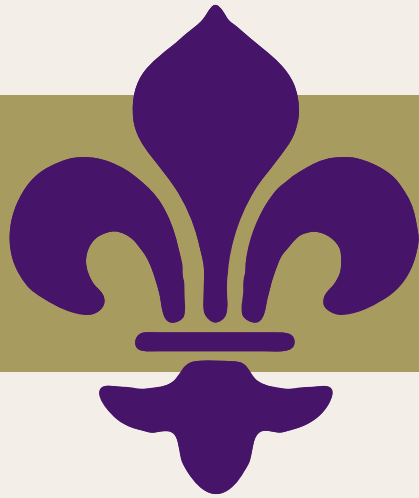
L to R: Mary (Kingsland) Duffy, Patricia (Cronin) Hardin '79, Terry (Shiflett) Pfaff '80, Vicki (Valentine) Sisel '81, Gloria (Eggan) Caine '79, Lisa (Schneiders) Roberts '79, Judy (Schauwecker) Switzer '79, on a recent vacation in Avila Beach, California.

Stay Connected

We want to hear from you! Job promotion, new baby, recent travels or new home? Let us know so we can share your good news! Email your news to alumni@avila.edu or complete the What's New With You form at Avila.edu/Alumni.



Alumni Association



In Memoriam

'38 DOROTHY S. NESTO of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on May 7. Dorothy attended College of St. Teresa.

'54 SUZANNE (KRESSIG) AMBERG of Kearney, Missouri, passed away on April 21. Suzanne received her diploma in nursing from College of St. Teresa.

'74 MARY E. KLETCHKA of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on September 11. Mary received her bachelor's degree in economics from Avila College.

'75 SUSAN (HORNBECK) GEIGER, of Shawnee Mission, Kansas, passed away August 9. Susan received her bachelor's degree in English from Avila College.

'76 MARIETTA (RICHARDSON) FITZGIBBONS, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away May 17. Marietta received her bachelor's degree from Avila College.

'80 MICHELE M. CHOLLET, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on May 22. Michele received her bachelor's degree in nursing from Avila College.

'81 MAX E. KING, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on June 11. Max received his bachelor's degree in public administration from Avila College.

'17 TOMOS I. RIDENHOUR of Lenexa, Kansas, passed away on June 30. Tomas received his bachelor's degree in nursing from Avila University.

'19 MATTHEW CANNO of Leawood, Kansas, passed away on October 20. Matthew received his certificate in social studies education.



S. ELAINE MARGARET BESAND, CSJ, passed away on September 28, 2019, at Nazareth Living Center in St. Louis. She was 78. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1962 and was received into the novitiate in 1963. S. Elaine received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fontbonne College in 1967. S. Elaine devoted nearly 40 years to CSJ-sponsored Avila University in Kansas City as a bookstore assistant, and retired in 2006. 🕯️

To make a gift in memory of a friend or loved one, please visit
Avila.edu/Donate or call 816.501.3602.



Heritage Society The Snorgrass Family

J. Anthony Snorgrass, Ph.D., or Dr. J., as he's known to many, and his wife Cheryl both believe in the power of technology to improve access, reduce barriers and increase abilities.

In becoming members of the Heritage Society, the Snorgrass' committed in their estate to strengthen the University's ability to educate its students on the latest developments in technology and their potential applications. The Snorgrass' particular focus is with the School of Visual & Communication Arts (VisCom) because of the opportunity for innovation, entrepreneurship and creative cross-discipline problem solving.

"The skills cultivated in VisCom ready students for all their future undertakings – business, professional, career, community and other future academic endeavors," Dr. J. said. "VisCom and Avila are more than worthy of our and others' support because the school prepares our students to seek collaborations in

the pursuit of solutions without dogma.

It weds our passion for technology as a tool for breaking down barriers while celebrating diversity and its expression."

For them, technology provides a valuable tool to overcome limitations, confront challenges, resolve differences and aid in creating meaningful life experiences equally for all. The couple's passion for promoting universal access to essential resources through technology aligns with Avila University's emphasis in recognizing the worth, dignity and potential of each human being.

Dr. J. is a professor of communications and director of the Center for Digital Advocacy. Cheryl is an exceptional education direct services coordinator for Kansas City Public Schools, arranging services for students with physical, emotional and developmental challenges.

Through their support, Avila will continue to provide access to cutting-edge technology,

and ensure VisCom continues to prepare its students for life of caring and giving after graduation.

"We firmly believe that it's important to give back to your community," Dr. J. said. "We both come from families filled with educators, professionals and community activists. Those legacies instilled us with the values and support that forged successes in our careers and other pursuits. And by giving back to organizations which share our values, like Avila, we have an opportunity to share our blessings and to hopefully honor those who invested so much in us." 🙏

We invite you to join the hundreds of alumni and friends, like Dr. J and Cheryl, who have already planned their legacy at Avila. Making a planned gift to Avila can be done in several simple and savvy ways without reducing your income or diminishing your savings.

Call us today to learn more and to make a lasting impact. Contact Deanna Nelson, vice president of advancement and marketing, at 816.501.2435 or Deanna.Nelson@avila.edu.



11901 Wornall Road
Kansas City, MO 64145
816.501.3602 • Avila.edu

WE ARE FAMILY

AVILA UNIVERSITY Steer Dinner & Auction



FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Kevin & Patricia '00 Lyon, Honorary Chairs
Greg Kratofil, Jr. & Kristin Kratofil, Event Chairs

Kansas City Marriott Downtown • Steak Dinner • Live & Premier Auction
Tables of 10 \$2,500 • Individual tickets \$250 • Recent alumni tickets \$85 (for 2009-19 classes)
All proceeds benefit Avila University student scholarships. Sponsorship packages are available.
For more information, please call 816.501.2450 or email SteerDinner@avila.edu.

Avila.edu/Steer